

Gessler's National Who Has Been Silent Since Receiving His Contract

DOC GESSLER HAS NOT BEEN HEARD FROM BY GRIFFITH

Questionable If Veteran Intends to Quit Game—Long Preliminary Motion of Pitchers to Be Abandoned.

BY J. ED GRILLO.

Doc Gessler is the only one of the Nationals from whom Manager Griffith has heard nothing since sending him his contract. That Gessler received the document was evidenced by the return of the registered letter receipt, but no word has been received from him by the local manager, and nothing is known as to what he intends doing.

Gessler has threatened to quit the game on several occasions, but never has, and it is not believed that this is his intention at the present time. Griffith believes that Gessler will report at Charlottesville and bring his contract with him. After a fellow is in base ball for some years he does not look upon the signing of a contract as an extraordinary proposition, and Gessler is believed to belong to this class.

One thing that the pitchers on the local staff will have to learn is to cut out their swing motion. Griffith does not believe anything is gained by a pitcher taking a long motion. In fact, he believes it is wearing on the pitcher and prevents him from going a long time.

"Take in the old days, when a pitcher was allowed to take a hop, skip and jump before delivering the ball, it did not get as much on it as the present-day twirlers, who are forced to stand on a rubber and take little or no preliminary motion," argued Griffith. "It is all rot to have a pitcher wind up like a windmill in an effort to get something out of the ball, for it does not have that effect. Take your great pitchers, and they are almost without exception men who take a rubber and take little or no preliminary motion, and yet have a lot on the ball. I propose to prevent long preliminary motions by my pitchers. I will teach them to pitch without exertion, and thus help them. It will make a wonderful difference in some of them if they will take kindly to the change."

"If we get one good pitcher out of the entire bunch of youngsters we will be south I will be well satisfied," said Griffith. "That is a good percentage. You can't figure on developing a whole bunch of green lot, and, as I said before, one will satisfy me, and I will consider myself lucky if I find such a man out of the lot of youngsters who will try out."

Griffith closed a contract with a local meat dealer this morning, who will keep the Nationals' camp at Charlottesville supplied with fresh meat. Griffith is a stickler for good food during the training period, and will not take any chances.

There was no addition to the signed contracts this morning, Griffith's mail containing but one letter pertaining to

to base ball, and that was from a fan who insisted that Walter Johnson should be traded for a couple of hard-hitting infielders.

It's well enough to exploit the wonderful work of present-day Mathewson, Johnson and Bender, but probably two of the greatest pitching feats of the game came through over thirty years ago, when base ball was even deeper "in its infancy" than Col. Ebbs' ever dreamed of, says Grantland Rice.

The leading hero was John Montgomery Ward, who has slipped back into the pastures again. Providence that season flew the pennant, with 59 victories and 25 defeats. Ward worked in 65 games, winning 50 and dropping 15. The Boston magnate pitched his people into first place undefeated and unaided when there. Which is considerable pitching, for 1879 or 1876.

Arthur Irwin relates another bizarre episode which developed that same season. Worcester was facing Chicago, and young Richmond was working his big league battle. The debutant, using an arm with southern exposure, began his career facing Pop Anson, Mike Kelley, Silver Flint, Dalrymple, Gore, Richardson, Burns—one of the hardest hitting battle-orders of the game. The one man who reached first off Richmond was Dalrymple, on a pass. Richmond still stands as the first recruit that ever started his career with a no-hit game.

President Charles Ebbs of the Brooklyn club believes that a club's first duty is to its patrons. He says: "It frequently happens that base ball fans do not understand or have knowledge of all the trials and tribulations that a manager must meet in the operation of a major league base ball club. To my mind the manager who provides a safe, commodious, convenient and up-to-date stand in a healthy location is a weak and he loses to him, though he won a championship with reverse conditions. Winning a championship may bring with it better artistic and financial results, but the health and safety of a club's patrons are paramount."

Ebbs is going to carry out this theory by erecting the best of the new stand near Prospect Park, in Brooklyn. Work on the plant will begin within a week, and he hopes to have it ready for use before the playing season is over.

Clarence Mitchell, the young south-paw who was secured by the Tigers at the close of the 1910 season from the Nebraska State League, has been added to the delegation of Tigers headed for Providence. Mitchell, a native of New York, is a right-handed pitcher, and will keep a string on "Mitch," and believes that with one more season's experience the minor league pitcher will be ripe for another trial in fast company.

According to the promoters of the United States League, there is to be no base ball war. The new league is just going along respecting contracts and rules of organized base ball without actually being governed by it. This means that the caliber of ball played by this league will be far below the class D standard.

Only players who are free agents and youngsters are to be employed, and there surely are not many free agents, and what few there are probably do better in organized base ball than with the new venture.

The season is to open in May, and the chances are that the league will close after the Fourth of July. The whole proposition is so improbable that one wonders how men can be found to invest even a small sum.

Base ball has advanced too much for a lot of attention to the development of Buck Becker, and this may be the making of the local lad. It is the general belief that the Hilltoppers will play the one good left-handed twirler in order to cope with its rivals. Becker's showing last year was brilliant, was good enough to give promise when the fact is taken into consideration that it was his first trial in fast company. But the fact that he won a few games does not establish him by any means.

It takes more than a line on a young pitcher. Here in Washington, for instance, there are a dozen amateur leagues, several of which have inclosed ball parks. It is a safe prediction that 75 per cent of these leagues are artificial, since it is a fact that there are not enough players of class to keep the two major leagues well balanced.

John M. Ward, the new head of the Boston National League club, is having some trouble inducing Mike Donlin to get into the fold. Mike made good last season, once he got into condition, and he naturally figures that he is worth as much salary now as he was during the days when he was the idol of New York fans. Donlin, who invaded the field in Cuba Donlin, who invaded there with the Giants, played the best ball of any of the New York outfielders, and he is not likely to be lured by the possibility of a player coming back after several years' lay-off, providing he takes care of himself. This winter in Cuba Donlin, who invaded there with the Giants, played the best ball of any of the New York outfielders, and he is not likely to be lured by the possibility of a player coming back after several years' lay-off, providing he takes care of himself.

What promises to be an interesting event tomorrow night at the Lyceum is the wrestling match which has been arranged with Shad Link of Baltimore as the main attraction. The Maryland champion has agreed to throw two local boys in one hour or forfeit \$100.

Shad Link's ability as a wrestler is well known around this section, and all over the country for that matter, as he has met and defeated some of the best men in the game. He states that he will appear at his best tomorrow.

The two local lads who will be pitted against Link are the Zerega brothers, Louis and Frank. Both boys have done some very creditable work on the mat and Link will have his hands full to win the bout under the stipulated conditions.

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PERTINENT COMMENT ON Happenings in Sportdom

BY J. ED GRILLO.

By the rival teams, seems logical, but he got his education from an umpire's standpoint, and that is quite different from the position of the man who looks into two hands of a card game, under which conditions the average individual appears decidedly wise to himself, yet if he had either hand to play, might prove a failure. Hank is an expert, but simple. He will have to show that he can manage a team before he can be given credit of being in the same class with men who have made a success of managing.

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TWO BIG LOCAL QUINTS TO MEET TOMORROW NIGHT

Georgetown and Catholic University Fives Appear Well Matched—George Washington Will Have Good College Relays.

BY H. C. BYRD.

The first of the two basket ball games scheduled between Catholic University and Georgetown will be played tomorrow night. The contest will be one of the two which will decide the championship of the District, as the Brooklanders have already demonstrated their superiority over Gallaudet.

That Catholic University will make a better showing against Georgetown than is generally expected is certain. While the Brooklanders failed to do anywhere near as well as did the Blue and Gray against Virginia, it must be remembered that the most dependable man they have was out of the game, as was also one of the regular forwards. Neither Fred Rice nor Horan was in the game against Virginia, and the absence of those men from the line-up made all the difference in the world in the play of the five as a team. Suppose, for instance, George Colliflower and Waldron had been out of the line-up against Virginia when George met the Orange and Blue, what would have happened to Georgetown? It is safe to say that the Hilltoppers would have won. Fred Rice is just about the same to the Catholic University team that Col. Ebbs is to the Brooklanders.

From the games that have been recently played both Georgetown and Catholic University have more or less of the same. Georgetown has Waldron, Colliflower and Schlosser, on whom it depends for the majority of its gains in the game. Georgetown has McDonald, Lambert and Rice for its mainstays. Waldron broke into the game last year for the first time this year and the way he shot good showed that he has not lost his ability to place the ball in the ring from almost any distance. Schlosser and Colliflower have been the bedrock of the Blue and Gray in this year's campaign.

Georgetown will show well, but at centering against the Hilltoppers, who really are not to be taken lightly. McDonald has been the chief instrument by which Catholic University has won its games of late, and it is a fact that he has not lost his ability to place the ball in the ring from almost any distance. Schlosser and Colliflower have been the bedrock of the Blue and Gray in this year's campaign.

Georgetown has a better defensive team than has Catholic University. In almost every game they have played this year the Hilltoppers have been a hard team to beat. Georgetown has been a hard team to beat, and it is a fact that they have not lost a game since they were defeated by the Brooklanders in the first round of the tournament.

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ROPER, PRINCETON'S ATHLETIC HEAD, OUT

Gives Up Position at Old Nassau to Devote His Time to Practice of Law.

PRINCETON, N. J., January 30.—William W. Roper, for many years a prominent factor in the athletics of Princeton University, has resigned as director of athletics, according to his own statement last evening. Roper has mapped out Princeton's football policies since the fall of 1908, excepting the year 1910, and was two years ago elected to be director of athletics, a position created by the board of trustees of Princeton.

At the renewal of his contract last February he expressed a desire to devote his attention entirely to his law practice in Philadelphia, though this was not generally known. Roper was graduated in 1902, and was the substitute end on the varsity team.

Members of the athletic association last night would offer no prediction as to Mr. Roper's successor, who will be selected at the next meeting of the association. Although Roper has been a victory while at the head of Princeton football, Roper coached the 1906 team that tied Yale in an invitational game and dined the three succeeding teams, which just by small margins. He was not actively engaged as field coach during the last season, but he determined largely the policy of the coaches.

FRANK KLAUS WINS. Has It on Knockout Brown of Chicago.

PITTSBURGH, Pa., January 30.—Frank Klaus, the East Pittsburgh bear cat, by his better fighting, and judging of distance, earned a shade last night over Knickerbocker Brown of Chicago. Brown was willing to rough it, but was wild throughout the bout.

The first two rounds went with little choice. Brown showed at his best in the third, when he rocked Klaus' head with a heavy right to the jaw. After Klaus had stood off Brown in the fourth, who left jabs to the face, Brown swung himself off his feet and fell heavily. In the fifth Klaus held his shade by working right and left to the stomach while the men were fighting head to head. The final found both exhausted in the ring center, with Klaus having the better of the fight, and Brown the jabbing.

Young Al Attoll of Pittsburgh knocked out Mike Fitzgerald of Philadelphia in forty seconds in a preliminary bout.

Rev. Billy Sunday wound up his big revival at Wichita by "converting" three base ball men. Tex Jones of the St. George Western League team, drafted by Chicago; Albert Isbell of the Pueblo team, a brother of Frank Isbell, formerly White Sox star, and Umpire Dick Morgan of the Western League.

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